Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/1219023657/

Downloaded on Mar 26, 2026

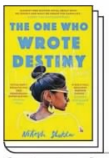
{ Fiction }

Everything Under
by Daisy Johnson, Vintage, £8.99

The narrator of this Booker-shortlisted novel writes that "there are more beginnings than there are endings to contain them": a crucial lesson about life and memory that shows us how to read this complex, uncompromising tale. Until she was 13, Gretel lived on a canal boat with her mother. But she hasn't seen her for 16 years, and the loss pulls everything else in with it - past, present, future.

Sarah is as mercurial and shape-shifting in memory as another liminal creature: the Bonak. Part of the reason the Bonak can remain ambiguous, and why *Everything Under* can shift between so many stories and remain coherent, is that the novel's sense of place is so organic and detailed. The mother-daughter relationship lies at the heart of the book, surrounded by a thicket of men animated by their own cruelty, menace or uncertainty.

As in her story collection *Fen*, Johnson's affinity for the natural world is extraordinary. She draws on folklore, with myth reduced down like the rotted wood of a sunken rowing boat. What is left behind forms a unique, strange mythology. **Jeff VanderMeer**



{ Fiction }

The One Who Wrote Destiny
by Nikesh Shukla, Atlantic, £8.99

Shukla edited *The Good Immigrant*, in which 21 BAME writers reflected on the experience of being anything other than white in Britain. His third novel indicates that compiling the anthology has deepened and extended his fictional range. It focuses on Rakesh, a British-Gujurati standup comedian who is busy negotiating the minefield of racist hecklers and rigged topical panel shows while his twin sister, Neha, has entered the late stages of lung cancer.

The most powerful writing is to be found in the framing narrative, which explains how the family originally came to be displaced from Kenya to West Yorkshire. The twins' father migrates in the early 1960s; he finds freezing mists and routine ostracism, but also the love of his life, Nisha, with whom he co-stars in a stage adaptation of the *Ramayana*. There's a terrifying trial by fire when the hall where they are performing is surrounded by a racist mob.

Shot through with the anxieties and contradictions of becoming a good immigrant, the novel is funny, profound and clearly the product of an author increasingly comfortable in his own skin. **Alfred Hickling**

Charts

Hardback

Fiction

1. Normal People
by Sally Rooney
SALES **3,605** | PRICE **£14.99**

2. The Binding
by Bridget Collins
SALES **3,121** | PRICE **£12.99**

3. Maybe This Time
by Jill Mansell
SALES **2,380** | PRICE **£12.99**

4. The Hunting Party
by Lucy Foley
SALES **2,379** | PRICE **£12.99**

5. Doctor Who: Scratchman
by Tom Baker
SALES **2,091** | PRICE **£16.99**

Non-Fiction

1. Tom Kerridge's Fresh Start: Kick Start Your ...
by Tom Kerridge
SALES **14,073** | PRICE **£26**

2. Becoming
by Michelle Obama
SALES **8,084** | PRICE **£25**

3. First Man In: Leading from the Front
by Ant Middleton
SALES **4,643** | PRICE **£20**

4. Lose Weight for Good: Full-flavour cooking ...
by Tom Kerridge
SALES **4,247** | PRICE **£22**

5. BOSH!: Simple Recipes. Amazing Food ...
by Henry Firth & Ian Theasby
SALES **4,102** | PRICE **£20**

Paperback

Fiction

1. The Tattooist of Auschwitz
by Heather Morris
SALES **15,378** | PRICE **£8.99**

2. The Blood Road
by Stuart MacBride
SALES **12,237** | PRICE **£7.99**

3. The Woman in the Window
by AJ Finn
SALES **11,542** | PRICE **£8.99**

4. Watching You
by Lisa Jewell
SALES **10,148** | PRICE **£8.99**

5. Murder Mile
by Lynda La Plante
SALES **8,068** | PRICE **£7.99**

Non-Fiction

1. The Language of Kindness: A Nurse's Story
by Christie Watson
SALES **10,153** | PRICE **£8.99**

2. The Fast 800: How to Combine Rapid Weight ...
by Michael Mosley
SALES **9,885** | PRICE **£8.99**

3. This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor
by Adam Kay
SALES **9,850** | PRICE **£8.99**

4. Veggie Lean in 15
by Joe Wicks
SALES **7,820** | PRICE **£16.99**

5. The Stress Solution
by Dr Rangan Chatterjee
SALES **4,271** | PRICE **£16.99**

Data supplied by Nielsen Bookscan taken from the total consumer market to 26 January.

Printed at York Mailing Ltd, Brinkworth Rush, Airfield Business Park, Elvington, York, YO41 4AU

Copyright © 2026 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.